

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing the sharing of social relationships collections comprising the steps of:

creating a social relationship collection object for a first user that provides access to at least one individual with whom they have a social relationship;

allowing a second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object using a retrieval request by the second user without invitation by the first user; and

as a result of allowing said second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object, said second user inspects a reference contained in the first user's social relationship collection object,

wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

providing said social relationship collection object as a user list;

associating said user list with a meta-tag; and

automatically modifying the meta-tag when retrieved by said second user.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing meta-tags for said social relationship collection object for indicating when a given reference within said object was used.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing meta-tags that indicate the type of relationship between the first user and at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a meta-tag for at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing usage history for at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for hosting a service that allows for the sharing of social relationships collections comprising the steps of:
creating a social relationship collection object for a first user that provides access to at least one individual with whom they have a social relationship;
allowing a second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object using a retrieval request by the second user without invitation by the first user; and
as a result of allowing said second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object, said

second user inspects a reference contained in the first user's social relationship collection object,

wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

providing said social relationship collection object as a user list;

associating said user list with a meta-tag; and

automatically modifying the meta-tag when retrieved by said second user.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing meta-tags for said social relationship collection object for indicating when a given reference within said object was used.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing meta-tags that indicate the type of relationship between the first user and at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing a meta-tag for at

least one reference within said social relationship collection object.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing usage history for at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in a computer services environment, said apparatus comprising:

at least one processor operative to create a social relationship collection object for a first user that provides access to at least one reference with whom they have a social relationship, allow a second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object using a retrieval request by the second user without invitation by the first user, and as a result of allowing said second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object, said second user inspects a reference contained in the first user's social relationship collection object, wherein said at least one processor further provides said social relationship collection object as a user list, associates said user list with a meta-tag, and automatically modifies the meta-tag when retrieved by said second user

18. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a first organization to enable a second organization to use social relationship collection objects of the first organization, the method comprising the steps of:

determining the number of users in the second organization that would be using the social relationship collection objects of the first organization,

configuring and installing a server at the first organization to handle requests from the users of the second organization such that retrieval requests from the second organization are made without invitation by the first organization, and ensuring ~~the~~ that all relevant members of the second organization have a client application for accessing the server.